

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wheelchair for transporting a patient, comprising:  
a support frame having a front, a rear, and opposing  
sides, the front and rear facing in respective forward  
and aft directions, the opposing sides facing in opposing  
lateral directions;

at least two main wheels mounted on the support frame;

a stretcher topping disposed upon the support frame and  
configured for selectively raising and lowering the  
patient between a first level and a second level, the  
stretcher topping including:

a storage compartment laterally slidably mounted  
upon the support frame;

a seat base assembly mounted upon the storage  
compartment and including a removable seat panel  
stackable upon a potty panel, the potty panel having  
an aperture formed therethrough and opening into the  
storage compartment;

a reclinable seat back hingedly connected and  
pivotal about an aft end of the seat base assembly  
between generally horizontal and vertical  
orientations; and

a leg support removably connected to and configured  
to be pivotal about the forward end of the seat  
base assembly between generally horizontal and  
vertical orientations.

2. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further including at least one security beam disposed adjacent one of the main wheels wherein the security beam is configured as a hand hold for the patient when transferring onto and off of the seat base assembly.

3. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein the security beam is disposed behind the seat back between the main wheels.

4. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein the storage compartment extends across only a portion of the seat base assembly width such that lateral sliding movement of the storage compartment allows for laterally extending a portion of the stretcher topping side beyond one of the main wheels.

5. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein the storage compartment is dividable into forward and aft sections.

6. The wheelchair of Claim 5 wherein the potty panel opens into the forward section.

7. The wheelchair of Claim 5 wherein the aft section of the storage compartment includes a removable drawer slidably insertable thereinto.

8. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein the leg support is detachable from the seat base assembly.

9. The wheelchair of Claim 1 wherein the leg support includes an outwardly pivotable footrest secured thereto.

10. The wheelchair of Claim 2 wherein the security beam is pivotable between substantially horizontal and vertical orientations and projects outwardly from the wheelchair.

11. The wheelchair of Claim 10 wherein the security beam is configured to be axially extendable.

12. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising at least one transit wheel mounted on the support frame forward of the main wheels.

13. The wheelchair of Claim 12 wherein the transit wheel is mounted aft of the main wheels.

14. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising a lifting mechanism configured for selectively raising and lowering the storage compartment and stretcher topping.

15. The wheelchair of Claim 14 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a scissors jack.

16. The wheelchair of Claim 14 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a hydraulic jack.

17. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising a pair of arm rests, each one of the arm rests being substantially horizontally disposed above a side of the seat base assembly.

18. The wheelchair of Claim 17 wherein each one of the arm rests is configured to be laterally pivotable.

19. The wheelchair of Claim 17 wherein each one of the arm rests is configured to be foldable into alignment with the seat back.

20. The wheelchair of Claim 1 further comprising a pair of anti-tip booms, each one of the anti-tip booms being substantially horizontally disposed adjacent a main wheel and projecting outwardly from the support frame.

21. The wheelchair of Claim 20 wherein each one of the anti-tip booms is axially extendable.

22. The wheelchair of Claim 20 wherein each one of the anti-tip booms is configured such that it may be laterally pivoted between the forward direction and the lateral direction.